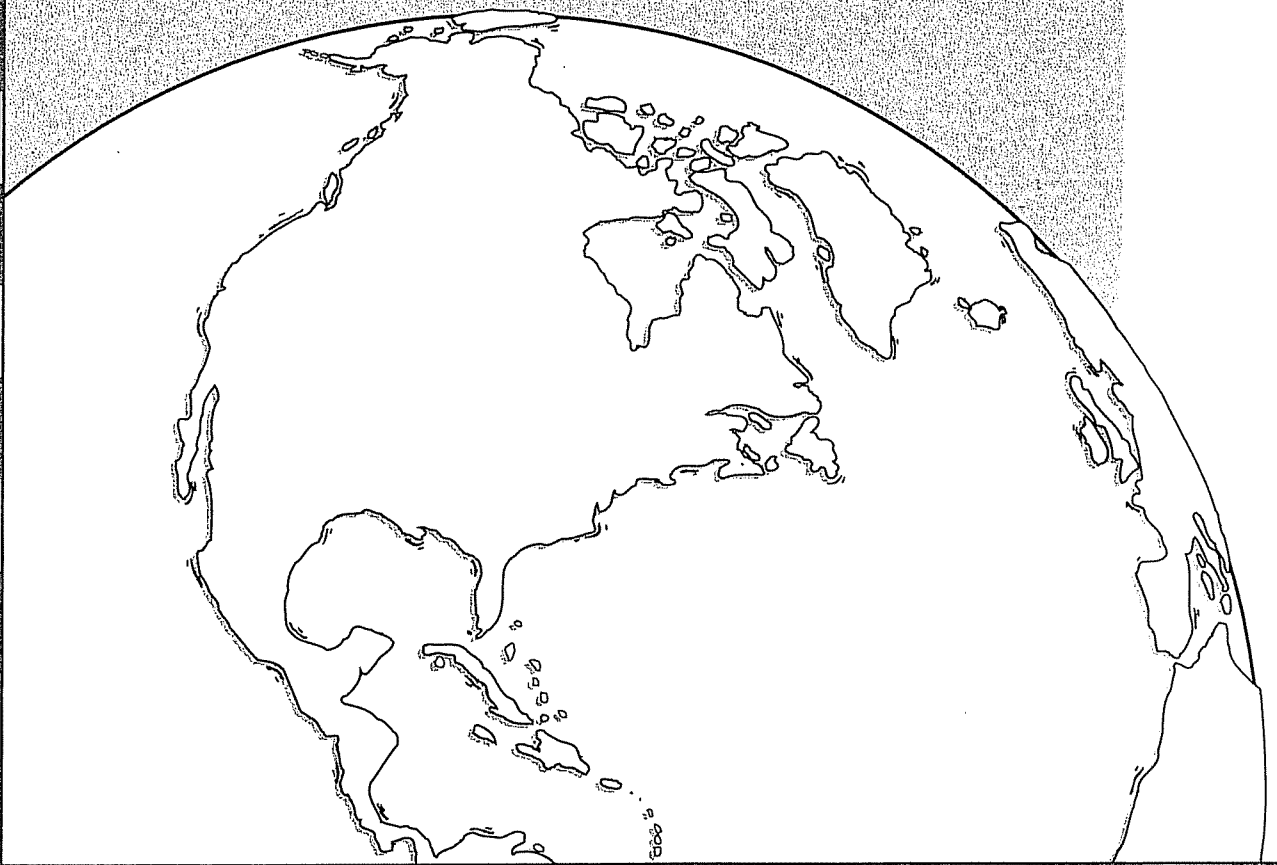


Geography Glossary

belongs to:



Glossary

absolute location description of a place using grid coordinates (latitude and longitude)

agriculture the business of farming

air carrier airport airport that serves planes of commercial airlines

ancient civilization a very old complex society with a stable food supply, specialization of labor, a government, and a highly developed culture

archipelago a group of islands

Arctic Circle a line of latitude that runs through northern North America, northern Asia, and northern Europe (66.5°N latitude)

arctic climate a climate of extreme cold

Arctic region region of continuous cold around the North Pole; includes Arctic Ocean, thousands of islands, and the northern parts of Asia, Europe, and North America

artesian basin land formed by underground water

bar scale a graphic that compares the distance on a map to the actual distance it represents, as in *one inch represents 100 miles*

basin land drained by a river

bight a bay formed by the curve of a coastline

biome a large area or environment that shares the same general climate of temperature and rainfall; different biomes support different types of plants and animals

borough any of the five political divisions of New York City

butte a flat-topped hill with steep sides; a column of rock

Canadian Shield a U-shaped region of ancient rock that curves around the Hudson Bay; southern part of shield is thick with forests and northern part is tundra

cape a point of land that extends into a sea or an ocean

capital a city in a country or state where the government is based

Capitol the building in Washington, D.C., occupied by the Congress of the U.S.

Capitol Hill the hill in Washington, D.C., on which stands the Capitol building

cardinal directions directions of north (N), south (S), east (E), and west (W)

cargo all freight, except baggage, carried by an airplane

cartographer mapmaker

census an official count of all the people living in a country or district

Central America a region of seven countries between Mexico and South America including Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama

city planner a person who advises local governments on ways to improve the community

city-state a self-governing unit made up of a city and its surrounding villages and farmland

climate usual weather in a particular place over a period of time

climate zone a region in which usual weather patterns occur over time

commercial area an area where businesses and stores are located

Glossary

community services public places that provide for the needs of a community such as schools, hospitals, police stations, and parks

compass rose a directional arrow that shows cardinal and sometimes intermediate directions on a map

concourse a large open space for passage of crowds

contiguous sharing an edge or boundary; touching

control tower a glass-enclosed booth equipped with radar, radio, signal lights, and other equipment for directing air traffic

coordinates the latitude and longitude address of a place on a map

coral a substance made up of skeletons of tiny sea creatures

coral reef a ridge made of coral and other materials that have solidified into rock

cropland land used regularly for production of crops

crude oil yellow-to-black oil as it occurs naturally in a reservoir

cultural landmark a place selected and pointed out as important to a group of people

cultural map a map that shows patterns of ethnic groups, religious practices, languages spoken, educational levels, and recreational choices

culture language, beliefs, traditions, arts and crafts, political systems, and technologies of a group of people

Daylight Saving Time a plan in which clocks are set one hour ahead of standard time for a specific period

degrees units of latitude or longitude ($^{\circ}$ is the symbol for degrees)

dependency land and waters controlled by a state, nation, or government

Glossary

desert a dry region with little or no rainfall

District of Columbia (D.C.) an area of land controlled by the federal government

diverse varied

dune a mound or ridge of windblown sand

economy the way a state or country develops, distributes, and uses its money, goods, and services

ecosystem a community of animals and plants interacting with their environment

elevation height of the land above sea level

Ellipse an oval-shaped, park-like area in Washington, D.C.

equator an imaginary line that runs around the center of Earth, halfway between the North and South Poles at 0° latitude

equidistant projection projection that shows land and water in relation to a central point

erg a vast sea of sand

ethnic having to do with a group of people sharing the same national origins, language, or culture

Eurasia a landmass made up of the continents of Asia and Europe

export to send products to another country to be sold there

fossil fuels mineral fuels of coal, oil, and natural gas

gate an airport terminal entryway used for boarding or leaving an airplane

geographic grid the intersecting pattern formed by the lines of latitude and longitude

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geopolitical map shows political and physical features on one map

grazing land a field covered with grass suitable for feeding livestock

Greater Antilles an island group of the West Indies including Cuba, Jamaica, Hispaniola (Dominican Republic and Haiti), and Puerto Rico (U.S.)

grid a pattern of lines that form squares

gulf a large area of ocean that is partly surrounded by land

hemisphere half of the Earth

highway interchange a place where major roads meet or join

history map a map that shows places or events from the past

index an alphabetical listing of place names on a map and the grid squares in which they are found

industrial area an area where factories or large industries are located

inset map a small map set within the border of a larger one

intermediate directions directions of northeast (NE), northwest (NW), southeast (SE), and southwest (SW)

international border a border between countries

interstate highway a major public road that is part of a nationwide highway system; the interstate highway system was created after the U.S. highway system

isthmus a narrow strip of land having water on each side and connecting two larger bodies of land

land use the range of uses of Earth's surface made by humans; includes such uses as agricultural, industrial, open space, forestry, recreational, and residential

legend (key) a list that explains the symbols on a map

Lesser Antilles an island group of the West Indies including eight countries and eight dependencies

lines of latitude (parallels) imaginary lines on Earth that run parallel to the equator

lines of longitude (meridians) imaginary lines on Earth that run between the North and South Poles

map sketch a rough drawing of a mental map

master plan a comprehensive plan that shows how land use of an area may be developed or improved

memorial something built to honor a person or an event, such as a monument or a statue

mental map a map that a person pictures in his or her mind

meridians (lines of longitude) imaginary lines on Earth that run between the North and South Poles

mesa a flat-topped hill with steep sides; larger than a butte

Middle East a large region that covers parts of northern Africa, southwestern Asia, and southeastern Europe

mileage total number of miles traveled

mineral a natural substance such as copper, gold, and salt

mountain any point of land that rises quickly to at least 1,000 feet above its surroundings

mountain peak the summit, or highest point, of a mountain

Glossary

mountain range a group or chain of mountains

mountain system a group of mountain ranges

mouth the part of a river where it empties into another body of water

National Mall a public walkway in Washington, D.C.

national park an area set aside by a nation's government to protect natural beauty, wildlife, or other remarkable features

natural resources materials supplied by nature that are useful or necessary for life

nomad a person who moves from place to place looking for food, water, and grazing land for his livestock

North Pole the point on Earth located at 90 degrees (90°) north latitude, where the lines of longitude meet

oasis a place in the desert where there is a source of water and where plants grow

parallels (lines of latitude) imaginary lines on Earth that run parallel to the equator

passage another name for a channel; a body of water joining two larger bodies of water

petroleum another name for oil

physical map a map that shows natural landforms and waterways on Earth's surface

plains a large flat area of land

plateau a flat-topped hill with steep sides; larger than a mesa

polar projection a kind of equidistant projection that includes one of the poles as its center

Glossary

political map a map that shows human-made features and boundaries such as cities, highways, and countries

population (populous) total number of people who live in a place

port a harbor where ships can dock or anchor safely

precipitation rain, snow, sleet, hail, or drizzle

prime meridian an imaginary line that runs from the North Pole to the South Pole of Earth at 0° longitude

product something that is made by a natural process

projection a system for mapping the round Earth on a flat surface

region an area of land or water with certain characteristics that make it different from other areas

relative location description of a place using the relation of one place to another

residential area an area where people's homes are located

rice paddy a rice field

river system a river and the smaller streams that supply water to the river

road map a map for motorists that shows the highways of an area

sand sea a vast region covered by sand and dunes

sea a body of salt water that is part of an ocean, yet is partially enclosed by land

source the place where a river begins

South Pole the point on Earth located at 90 degrees (90°) south latitude where the lines of longitude meet

Glossary

standard time zone a region in which the same time is used;
Earth is divided into 24 time zones

staple a basic food that is always produced and sold

statistic a fact or piece of information expressed as a number
or percentage

strait a narrow channel connecting two bodies of water

tableland a high, broad, level plateau

temperate climate a climate without extremes of either cold
or heat

terminal a main airport building for passenger services

tourism tourist travel, especially when regarded as a source of
income for a state or country

traffic pattern a pattern of flight around an airport for arriving and
departing aircraft

tributary a small stream or river that flows into a larger one

tropical climate a climate of heat and rain

unproductive land land not usable for crops, grazing, or forests

U.S. highway a major public road that is part of a nationwide
highway system; the U.S. highway system was created before
the interstate highway system

weather conditions in the Earth's atmosphere at a certain place
and time

West Indies an island chain that divides the Caribbean Sea from
the rest of the Atlantic Ocean